

Assembly Bill No. 1942

CHAPTER 729

An act to add Sections 833.2 and 13517.7 to the Penal Code, relating to arrests.

[Approved by Governor September 29, 2006. Filed with
Secretary of State September 29, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1942, Nava. Arrests.

Existing law generally regulates the conditions of arrest.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature regarding the development of protocols by law enforcement and other entities, pertaining to arresting caretaker parents or guardians of minors, to ensure the safety and well-being of the minor. The bill would also state that the Legislature encourages the Department of Justice to apply for a federal grant to train local law enforcement agencies and assist them in developing protocols pertaining to child safety when a caretaker parent or guardian is arrested.

Existing law establishes the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training and charges it with various responsibilities.

This bill would require the commission to develop guidelines and training for use by state and local law enforcement officers to address issues related to child safety when a caretaker parent or guardian is arrested, as specified.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 833.2 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

833.2. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage law enforcement and county child welfare agencies to develop protocols in collaboration with other local entities, which may include local educational, judicial, correctional, and community-based organizations, when appropriate, regarding how to best cooperate in their response to the arrest of a caretaker parent or guardian of a minor child, to ensure the child's safety and well-being.

(b) The Legislature encourages the Department of Justice to apply to the federal government for a statewide training grant on behalf of California law enforcement agencies, with the purpose of enabling local jurisdictions to provide training for their law enforcement officers to assist them in developing protocols and adequately addressing issues related to child safety when a caretaker parent or guardian is arrested.

SEC. 2. Section 13517.7 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

13517.7. (a) The commission shall develop guidelines and training for use by state and local law enforcement officers to address issues related to child safety when a caretaker parent or guardian is arrested.

(b) The guidelines and training shall, at a minimum, address the following subjects:

(1) Procedures to ensure that officers and custodial employees inquire whether an arrestee has minor dependent children without appropriate supervision.

(2) Authorizing additional telephone calls by arrestees so that they may arrange for the care of minor dependent children.

(3) Use of county child welfare services, as appropriate, and other similar service providers to assist in the placement of dependent children when the parent or guardian is unable or unwilling to arrange suitable care for the child or children.

(4) Identification of local government or nongovernmental agencies able to provide appropriate custodial services.

(5) Temporary supervision of minor children to ensure their safety and well-being.

(6) Sample procedures to assist state and local law enforcement agencies to develop ways to ensure the safety and well-being of children when the parent or guardian has been arrested.

(c) The commission shall use appropriate subject matter experts, including representatives of law enforcement and county child welfare agencies, in developing the guidelines and training required by this section.